Infrastructural Development in Maharashtra

434. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government of Maharashtra have requested any assistance for infrastructural development of roads;

(b) if so, the details of the request thereof;

(c) the total funding required; and

(d) Government's response in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA: (a) to (d) No, Sir. However, two proposals viz. Mumbai-Trans Harbour Link for Rs. 4000 Crores and Western Freeway Sea Link Project for Rs. 3960 crores have been received from Maharashtra State Road Development Corporation (MSRDC) through the Prime Minister's Officer. In these two proposals MSRDC has requested for grant of Rs. 1600 crores and Rs. 790 crores respectively from the Centrally Government. There is no provision for Central assistance for these projects.

Accidents due to heavy vehicles

435. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that nearly 70 percent of fatal accidents in India involve a heavy vehicle and more than two-thirds of victims are vulnerable road users like pedestrians, cyclists and two-wheeler riders;

(b) if so, whether Government are thinking of developing safe designs that are "friendly" to vulnerable groups; and

(c) whether R&D units are aware of this situation and whether Government are having periodical interaction with them towards developing such designs?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING, ROAD TRANSPORT AND HIGHWAYS (SHRI K.H. MUNIAPPA: (a) As reported by States/UTs, in the year 2002 about 45% of the fatalities on Indian roads involved heavy vehicles (buses, trucks, tempos, articulated vehicles and